

## COL. BOB MONROE UNDER QUIZ

HE REALLY DIDN'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT LIGHTING.

Thought That Prices Were Too High Here and That His Tables of Comparison With Other Cities Were Correct—Does Not Afford Much Light of His Own.

Col. Robert Grier Monroe, who was Commissioner of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity under Mayor Low, and who was mainly responsible for holding up the bills of the lighting combine for its public service, was a witness yesterday before the Stevens committee on the lighting situation as it appeared in the public press. The statements, manifestos and reports issued by him, if gathered together, would form a small library. The size of the output was taken in certain quarters to indicate that he was an expert on the cost of production and distribution of gas and electricity. He had held stoutly that his charges for street lighting were excessive, and the general belief, outside of the practical men of the gas and electrical companies, was that he knew what he was talking about.

This illusion was dispelled yesterday when the lawyers for the corporations interested got a chance to cross-examine Col. Monroe. Chief Inquisitor Hughes finally went to the rescue with a series of leading questions. Lawyer Dykman objected.

"I hold," said he to Senator Stevens, the only member of the committee present, "that it is immaterial what Mr. Hughes supposes that Col. Monroe supposed in 1903."

"Objection sustained," said the chairman, and Mr. Hughes took another tack.

In answer to the questions of the senior counsel of the committee Col. Monroe related the history of the lighting contracts up to the time they were held up two years ago. He said that his main reason for rejecting the bids were the price of gas for open flame street lamps was the same then as it had been for three years, although in that time the price to private consumers had been reduced from \$2.25 to \$1.00, and the price asked for electric lights seemed exorbitant when compared with prices charged elsewhere. He said that it was evident from the bids that there was no competition. The only low bids received were from the New Amsterdam and Standard companies, who, he said, had been compelled to furnish open flame lamps at \$12 a year each. He had considered this a fair price and had recommended that no higher charge be allowed for this class of lighting in Manhattan. He had recommended the rejection of all bids and the bills that were introduced in the Legislature at Albany at the time of the administration for a municipal electric light plant because, as he had reported, the city was obliged to pay the interest on the bonds of the corporation engaged in the business.

Questioned by Mr. Mathewson, the witness admitted that he knew that the price of gas was greater in 1903 than it was twenty years ago and that consequently the street lamps burned more, but just how much he did not know. He had not figured out how much it cost a thousand feet to supply a street lamp or what actual returns the companies got for this class of business. He recommended the acceptance of only the bids of the companies whose charters compelled them to furnish lamps at \$12 a year? asked Mr. Mathewson. "You know that the companies paid to get their charters, didn't you?"

"I didn't draw that report," replied the witness. "I think you would find it. The price, \$12, was in their charters, and it was considered a fair sum for the service."

"Now, there is a company in Queens whose charter is to furnish gas and light free to the city for so many contracted for. You wouldn't establish anything, which it gets for the free lights, as a fair basis of charging, would you?" asked Mr. Mathewson.

"Hardly," said the witness, looking bored. "Then how did you arrive at the \$12 basis?"

"We thought it was the amount per thousand cubic feet that the companies got for this gas?"

"No, I had no figure on the subject," he said. "If I told you that we got only 25 cents a thousand for this gas you would think it was a pretty low figure, wouldn't you?"

"I don't know what the manufacturing cost is," he said.

"Then your idea that \$17.50 a year a lamp for the open flame burner is too high is a general one?"

"Col. Monroe's trump card in the lighting business has always been the comparatively low cost in other cities. Under Mr. Mathewson's cross-examination he was compelled to admit that the cost was lower here for both kinds of gas lamps than in a majority of the cities in the country—in America, Lowell, Mass., where the Welshbach burners were supplied any cheaper, and there the lamps are shut off at midnight."

"Have you any particular complaint to make on the gas lighting contracts as they stand now?" asked Mr. Mathewson.

"I have not."

Mr. Mathewson took up again the list of cities that Mr. Monroe had compared to New York and found that the average price for Welshbach lamps was considerably higher than the price now being charged in New York. He also found several big errors in the schedule. One of them related to the city of Portland, Me., which was put down as one municipality in America, Lowell, Mass., where the Welshbach burners were supplied any cheaper, and there the lamps are shut off at midnight."

"I don't remember," he said.

"You don't?" said Mr. Dykman, with apparent surprise. "Why, you have been signing in the press and the committee so long a time that I thought you had the data at your fingers' ends."

"What complaint have you against the electric service except the price charged for light?" asked Lawyer Hemmens.

"I don't remember anything in particular," he said.

"In making up these tables of comparison of electric light in various cities you relied largely on subordinates, didn't you?"

"I did."

"If you had known that much of that information was unreliable you might have changed your mind about the price charged here?"

"Col. Monroe is out of office and he can't change his report," put in Chairman Stevens.

"I am asking him to change his opinion, not his report," said Mr. Hemmens. Then he said to the witness: "Isn't it a fact that most of your report to the Board of Estimate was based on hearsay?"

"No, not the most of it."

It is not likely that Charles F. Murphy will be called before the end of the week. The committee hopes to finish the public sessions by Saturday night.

National Wireless Directors Elected.

At the annual meeting yesterday in Jersey City of the stockholders of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America the following directors were elected for five years each: Eugene H. Lewis, John Bottomley and Alfred B. Briggs.

Special Sale  
Second-Hand Safes.

In order to make room for new stock we have decided to sacrifice our large line of SECOND-HAND SAFES of all styles and sizes. All these safes will be put in first class order before delivery. This is a rare chance for a SAFE BARGAIN. If you need a safe or have any idea of buying one in the near future, NOW IS YOUR TIME. We Make a Specialty of Repair and Moving Jobs.

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## KILLING OF FAIRS RECALLED.

Mrs. Charles L. Fair's Mother, Aged 75, Dies in Her Native Place.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., April 17.—Mrs. Hannah B. Nelson, mother of the late Mrs. Charles L. Fair and the latter's principal heir, died suddenly at her home in New Market this morning. She had been under the care of a physician during the last three years and was believed to be improving. Two days ago she was taken ill after a trip to New York and failed rapidly.

Mrs. Nelson was a native of New Market and was 75 years old. She was married twice, her first husband being William Smith, father of Mrs. Fair. Many years ago he disappeared and was never heard from again. Mrs. Smith married again, her second husband being Abraham Nelson, who died a few years ago. In her early life Mrs. Nelson had a struggle to support a large family and for some time she was employed as a repairer in Dunham's clothing factory at New Market.

Mrs. Nelson's daughter, Caroline, went West, where she met and married Charles L. Fair. At New Market she was known as Carrie Smith and she was unusually attractive. With the possession of great riches she at once made her mother comfortable, started her brothers in business and gave her nephews and nieces a good education. After her marriage she frequently visited her former home at New Market. She spent a week there just prior to her European trip which ended in her death.

A legal dispute arose over the division of the Fair estate, being a question whether Mrs. Fair or her husband died first. The matter was finally settled. Mrs. Nelson receiving about half a million dollars, while her children received amounts varying from \$50,000 to \$200,000. Mrs. Nelson is survived by two daughters and three sons, Mrs. George Bonnell of Union, Mrs. Laura Leonard of Caldwell, Charles Smith of Boulder, Col., and Abraham G. Nelson and William B. Smith of New Market. Mrs. George Whitely of this city, who was the favorite niece of Mrs. Fair, is a granddaughter.

## THOSE HUMOROUS YALE MEN.

Prospective Junior Initiates Shown on as Bears Behind Iron Gates.

NEW HAVEN, April 17.—Prior to their initiation into the three junior societies to-morrow night, the twenty-four sophomores have been put through some stunts out of the ordinary. One of these has been furnishing fun for the students for several days.

Several candidates have been placed behind the iron gates in Vanderbilt Hall courtyard and commanded to imagine themselves being bears in a cage. Down they go on all fours, prowling restlessly to and fro behind the bars, which they occasionally grasp and shake. They snarl and snarl at the small boys, who tease them by prodding them with long sticks.

The liveliest moment comes when they are told to "President Roosevelt is after them. Then the bears scramble up the bars to the top and perch on the spikes in attitudes of terror.

## BRADY SUIT UP AGAIN.

Daughter of Stager, the Sewing Machine Man, is Suing for Divorce.

The second trial of the suit for divorce brought by Mrs. Sadie V. Brady, daughter of Isaac A. Singer, the sewing machine manufacturer, against Daniel M. Brady, president of the Brady Brass Company, was begun yesterday afternoon in the Supreme Court before Justice Clark and a jury.

Mrs. Brady accuses her husband of misconduct with Gertrude Mackenzie, an actress who played Prince Charming in "The Wizard of Oz," and who also appeared in "A Royal Chef" and in "The Sleeping Beauty and the Beast."

Mr. Brady and Miss Mackenzie deny these allegations and insist that they were merely friends. At the first trial the jury stood six to six. The taking of testimony will begin to-day.

## PIANOS AND ORGANS.

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## JEROME KEEPS THE LETTERS

AND NAN PATTERSON TRIAL WILL GO ON TO-DAY.

Justice Gaynor Has Modified His Order So That the District Attorney Show Cause Why He Should Not Deliver Up Papers of Morgan Smith.

The trial of Nan Patterson was put over yesterday to to-day, and meantime District Attorney Jerome has secured from Justice Gaynor such a modification of the order commanding him to surrender the letters taken from the Morgan Smith at Cincinnati that he does not have to give them up at once and expects to be able to retain the custody of such as may be of value in the Patterson trial.

H. R. Limburger, who as counsel for the Smiths got the original peremptory order from Justice Gaynor was on the lookout yesterday morning, with a staff of clerks for Mr. Jerome.

Neither Mr. Jerome, Mr. Rand nor Mr. Garvan had appeared at 10:30. Instead of them Assistant District Attorney Gans appeared in the General Sessions court and said to the Recorder that there were important reasons why Mr. Rand was absent and also why an adjournment of a day should be granted. Abe Levy of counsel for Nan Patterson jumped up with strenuous protest.

"This is an attempt," he said, to "juggle with justice. Why should these citizens [the 200 special takenmen] be brought here day after day at the whim of the District Attorney?"

Recorder Goff said that Mr. Gans's explanation was vague. Mr. Gans then said that a mandatory injunction had been issued to the District Attorney to turn over certain documents in the case and that Mr. Jerome wanted to look into his legal standing, so as to protect the State's interests.

Mr. Levy said this was an astonishing admission, that the District Attorney and his assistant were trying to evade service of a court order.

Then the Recorder adjourned the trial until this morning. Mr. Levy asked the Recorder to set it peremptorily for to-day, but the Recorder said he would think it over.

That disposed of Mr. Limburger hustled over to Judge Foster's court, where he had a motion pending for leave to inspect the grand jury minutes in the conspiracy cases against the Smiths. Against his protest and on the application of Assistant District Attorney Perkins for a day's delay, Judge Foster put the argument over until to-day.

Then Mr. Limburger began another hunt for Messrs. Jerome and Rand. After waiting until nearly 1 o'clock he departed, leaving this note for Mr. Jerome:

"I should ordinarily have assumed that this absence was a mere coincidence, were it not for the fact that Assistant District Attorney Gans stated before Recorder Goff in open court that you were aware of the granting of the order of the peremptory nature of the fact that the conspiracy case against the Smiths has been filed against the Smiths. A grammar will be sent to you in English by Charles H. Mathelet. A large attendance will do much to promote this new language, which will be fair to become the language of all nations. Bring plenty of pennies! An unique contest has been arranged and prizes will be awarded."

## Business Troubles.

A creditors' petition in bankruptcy has been filed against Viola Schiller and Henry L. Trier, doing business as the Schiller & Trier Hat Company, manufacturers of women's trimmed hats at 64 Broadway. A petition in bankruptcy has been filed against George V. Blackburne Company, bookeller, formerly at 114 Broadway, by Leo D. Tierney, a creditor for \$80.

Warren G. Abbott, who kept a saloon at 125 Bedford square, Brooklyn, and was formerly president of the Abbott Brewing Company, has obtained a discharge in bankruptcy; liabilities \$19,426.

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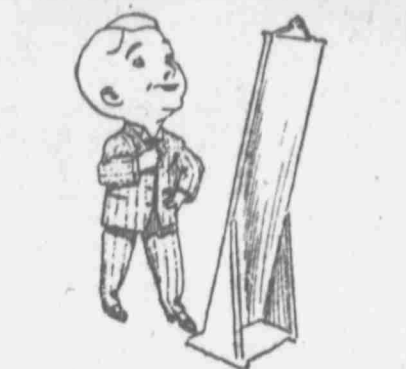
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If it's one of our make, its bound to be really new, 'cause we didn't carry over a single Spring suit of any fancy mixture in any man's size. Spring suits, \$16 to \$38.

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